districts to effectively address security and development issues in these areas.

(viii) The Central Government will continue to provide all possible help to the States on both security and development fronts to enable them to successfully meet the challenge posed by naxalism.

Low labour productivity

*376. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the productivity of country's labourers is quite low in comparison to the labourers in the developed countries, like USA, UK, Japan and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) the labour productivity measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product (Purchasing Power Parity) per person per hour (in US $) during the year 2003 for different countries is as follows:-

India	:	3.05
China	:	4.39
Japan	:	29.88
UK	:	30.93
USA	:	40.72

Source: World Competitiveness Yearbook 2004.

(c) Variation in labour productivity is mostly due to varying access to technology and education and factors related to the level of economic development of countries concerned.

Exemption to wood based industry in Assam

*377. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR :
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assam Government had some time back requested his Ministry for extending benefits of various exemptions under